# Before the COPYRIGHT ROYALTY JUDGES Washington, D.C.



	COPYRIGHT OFFICE
In re	
DISTRIBUTION OF CABLE ROYALTY FUNDS	NO. 14-CRB-0010-CD (2010-13)
In re	RECEIVED & FILED
in re	
DISTRIBUTION OF SATELLITE ROYALTY FUNDS	NO. 14-CRB-0011-SD (2010-13)DEC 15 2017
	OSERVEIGHT ROYALTY BOARD

# OPPOSITION OF THE JOINT SPORTS CLAIMANTS TO MULTIGROUP CLAIMANTS' MOTION TO STAY THE DISTRIBUTION PHASE

The Joint Sports Claimants ("JSC") submit this opposition to Multigroup Claimants' ("MGC") Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedings Pending Resolution of Worldwide Subsidy Group v. Hayden (dated December 11, 2017) ("Motion").

MGC's request for a stay is predicated on the lawsuit filed by its alter ego Worldwide Subsidy Group/International Producers Group ("IPG") against the Librarian of Congress and the Copyright Royalty Board ("IPG lawsuit"). JSC anticipates that the IPG lawsuit will be dismissed. The IPG lawsuit attacks claims-validity rulings by the Copyright Royalty Judges ("Judges"), but the exclusive avenue for review of those rulings is an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit – not a collateral lawsuit in district court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Jarkesy v. S.E.C., 803 F.3d 9, 30 (D.C. Cir. 2015) ("exclusive avenue" for challenge to SEC proceeding was judicial review in a court of appeals); Independent Producers Group v. Librarian of Congress, 792 F.3d 132, 137-38 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (holding that the Judges' claims rulings "are subject to judicial review as part of the Board's final determination" on appeal).

In any event, MGC's request for "a stay of the distribution portion of these proceedings" (Motion at 1) is most with respect to JSC because JSC is no longer a party to the Distribution Phase of the proceedings. See Ruling and Order Regarding Objections to Cable and Satellite Claims, Nos. 14-CRB-0010-CD (2010-13), 14-CRB-0011-SD (2010-13) (Oct. 23, 2017) ("Claims Order"), at 45-49 (dismissing all of MGC's claims in the Sports category).

Nevertheless, in the IPG lawsuit, MGC/IPG states that it "seeks a stay of CRB Docket Nos. 14-0010 CD 2010-2013 and 14-0011 SD 2010-2013, with regard to distributions in the 'Program Supplier', 'Sports' and 'Devotional' distribution categories." MGC apparently believes that if the IPG lawsuit is not dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, and if that lawsuit results in the application of a presumption of validity to IPG's claims, that would somehow undo the Judges' claims rulings in the Sports category. MGC is wrong.

No presumption of validity could revive MGC's claims based on Fédération Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA") programming, because FIFA expressly repudiated any alleged agency relationship with IPG:

Even if MGC had established FIFA's copyright, FIFA has repudiated the right of IPG or its counsel to represent FIFA, as of July 30, 2012, at the latest. . . . MGC has no greater rights than its assignor, IPG. Neither IPG nor MGC has produced any evidence that FIFA has retained either entity to represent its interests in these proceedings.

Claims Order at 46 (footnote omitted). Likewise, MGC's CFL claims were dismissed not due to IPG's loss of the presumption of validity, but because the CFL expressly terminated MGC/IPG. *Id.* at 48-49. MGC's only other Sports claims, for TV Azteca, were dismissed not due to the lack of a validity presumption, but because MGC "failed to demonstrate that any of the [Azteca] titles

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, at 6, No. 1-17-cv-02643 (Doc. 5-1) (filed Dec. 12, 2017) (emphasis added).

MGC lists is clearly a retransmission of a live 'professional or college team sports broadcast by U.S. ... television stations ....'" *Id.* at 49.

Accordingly, while JSC believes there is no basis for a stay of these proceedings, even if the Distribution Phase were stayed, there would be no basis to apply any such stay to future distributions to the Sports category.

## **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Judges should deny the Motion. If and to the extent any stay is granted, the Judges should make clear that it applies only to the Program Suppliers and Devotional categories, and not to distributions of 2010-13 cable and satellite royalties to the Sports category.

December 15, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of December, 2017, a copy of the foregoing Notice Regarding Change in Service List was provided to each of the parties listed below via eCRB's electronic filing system or by Federal Express overnight mail where required by 37 C.F.R. § 350.6(h)(1).:

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